Judges 12

“Unrest among Brothers”

**Scripture:** Judges 12:1-15

**Memory Verse:** *“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”* Romans 14:19

**Lesson Focus:** To have peace with others.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring pages, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: Peacemaker Sun Flower

**Introduction:** “The Keep the Peace Game”

1. Call a few kids up to the front
2. Give them one of the cards and ask them how they would keep the peace
3. Have the kids vote by clapping if they liked their answer or not.

**Bible Lesson:**

 Review: Last week we saw that God gave Jeph’thah the victory over the enemies

of Israel. Jeph’thah’s life was not perfect, but Jeph’thah was a man of integrity and a man of faith.

 **Judges 12:1:** “The Complaint”

 √ What did Jeph’thah just do for Israel? (He fought a war and one with the

 God’s help.)

 √ What did the men of Ephraim come and say to Jeph’thah?

1. Why did you fight without us?
2. We will burn your houses down with fire.

√ Has Ephraim said this before?

Yes, to Gideon. Do you remember in Judges 8, they complained to Gideon that he did not call them when he went to war.

 Now they are doing it again with Jeph’thah.

 **Judges 12:2-3:** “The Answer”

 √ What did Jeph’thah tell the Ephraimites?

1. That he did call them
2. That they refused to join in the fight
3. That he had to fight Amon on his own
4. That the Lord gave him the victory
5. He asked them why they had come now to fight him

**Judges 12:4-6:** “The War”

 God gave the victory to Jeph’thah. His battle plan included seizing all of

 the fords of the Jordan river.

 √ What is a ford? ( a place in a river where it is shallow enough for

 crossing.)

 √ What did the escapee’s try to do?

 √ What question did Jeph’thah and his men ask the escapees? (Are you

 an Ephraimite?

 √ How did the Ephraimites answer? (No, they lied.)

 √ What second question did they ask the Ephraimites? (the second

question was to pronounce a certain word. Even though they were all Israelites, they lived in different parts of the country and they pronounced words differently. Kind of like here in the USA people in Texas say the same words a little different. They asked them to say “shibboleth” which means “crossing or flowing stream.” They could not say it the same way and they said “sibboleth.” So they got caught.

 √ What is the problem with this story about Jeph’than and the Ephraimites?

These were people from the same nation, Israel, just different tribes. They should of supported one another and helped one another, instead of complaining, whining, fighting and killing.

 The Bible says a lot about “unity” and getting along?

 √ Why do you think that God thinks this is important?

 √ Do you think that the devil thinks that is important? No, the devil wants to

 divide the people of God.

 Ephesians 4:1-3 says, “*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk*

*worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

This verse is about our walk as a Christian.

1. Walk Worthy…how do we do that
2. We walk worthy by being patient with others
3. We walk worthy by having humility towards others
4. We walk worthy by being gentle with others
5. We walk worthy by loving others
6. We walk worthy by keeping the unity
7. We walk worthy by being peaceful.

God cares about how we treat our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We do not live in a world that has this value. The world says, you deserve to get everything you want. If someone hurts you, you hurt them back. God says, if someone hurts you, you forgive them. We need to work hard at unity and putting others first in our lives.

 **Judges 12:7:**

God gave Jeph’phah 7 years to judge Israel. Here was a man that was kicked out of his father house because he had a different mother. Here was a man that got involved with a gang of thieves. Here was a man that when God gave him the call, he answered and believed in God. He made a promise that he did not have to make, but he kept his word to God. Jeph’phah is written up in Hebrews 12 as a man of faith. God saw what Jeph’phah could be and Jeph’phan saw what God could do through Him.

 **Judges 12:8-12:** “Judge Ibzan”

 √ What do we know about Ibzan?

1. Had 30 sons
2. Had 30 daughters that he gave in marriage.
3. Brought in 30 wives for his sons, from the people that lived around Israel.
4. He judged Israel 7 years

All that is said about Ibzan, is what he did not how he believed. Not how he lived obeying God. I have a feeling that sending 30 daughters off to marry those around them and choosing 30 women to mary his sons was a political move. He did it to make peace with those around Israel. He did not do it to follow God’s directions. God told them not to intermarry. He is completely disobeying God.

**Judges 12:11-12:** “Judge Elon”

 √ What do we know about judge Elon?

1. Was a Zebulunite
2. Judges 10 years

**Judges 12:13-** “Judge Ab’don”

 √ What do we know about Ab’don?

1. He was a Pirathonite
2. 40 sons and 30 grandsons
3. 70 donkeys
4. He judges Israel 8 years

The last three judges of Israel, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon did not do much for Israel. They had the power and the position, but it seems like they were mediocre leaders. They just did not do much with what they had.

**Keep The Peace Game:**

Your friends are fighting……

How would you keep the Peace?

The referee made an unfair call in your game and your team is really mad…….

How would you keep the Peace?

Your friends are talking badly about another person……

How would you keep the Peace?

Your parent says something that you do not like……

How would you keep the Peace?

Your Teacher has said that you are not listening…

How would you keep the Peace?

Your sister has blamed you for playing your games too loud…

How would you keep the Peace?